

gorgeous costumes, one of the most enjoyable of entertainments."

The Franciscans are about to found a college and erect a church in Trenton, N. J., and to remove the headquarters of their Order from Syracuse, N. Y., to that city. An outline of their purposes will be found in another column.

When Should Franklin's Birthday Be Celebrated?

There seems to have arisen some little confusion in regard to the proper day—the 16th or 17th of January—on which to commemorate the anniversary of the birthday of the great printer, philosopher and statesman. On Friday last, the 16th, the Typographical societies in New York and Boston celebrated the event, and subsequently the Boston Transcript is received containing the following brief paragraph:—"Three noted sons of Massachusetts were born on the 17th of January—Benjamin Franklin, 1706; Caleb Cushing, 1800; Josiah Quincy, 1802." By consulting Appleton's "Cyclopedia of Biography" it will be seen that Franklin was born in Boston on the 6th of January, 1706, "old style;" but, adding the eleven days which the Parliament of Great Britain determined upon in 1751—making the 3d of September, 1752, the 14th, in adopting the Gregorian calendar—the proper day to "celebrate" is, of course, the 17th, and yet those who choose to commemorate the event on the 16th may find authority for the same in the fact that only ten days were retracted by Pope Gregory in reforming the Julian calendar. But as we in this country have accepted the new style of reckoning, as arranged by the British Parliament, we repeat that the 17th must be regarded as the true natal day of Benjamin Franklin. The only trouble with our Typographical Society friends is that they were commendably premature in celebrating an event that should be commemorated so long as types are used in printing or the lightning flash.

Contract.—The opinion which it is said General Grant expressed the other day that the republican party has too much dead weight to carry, and that it is time to lighten the ship, particularly of the dead weights upon the party in the South.

GETTING LIVELY.—The agitation among the contesting parties and candidates touching the approaching election for an Assemblyman in the uptown district for which ex-Senator Genet was elected, but who has mysteriously disappeared and gone to parts unknown.

Too Late.—The endorsement of Attorney General Williams for Chief Justice by a republican delegation from the party in Maryland which waited upon the President on Saturday last.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

George M. Pullman, of Chicago, has arrived at the Brevoort House.

Judge O. A. Lochrane, of Georgia, is staying at the Sturtevant House.

Commander Babcock, United States Navy, is again at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Mayor H. G. Eastman, of Poughkeepsie, is registered at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Commander Henry Wilson, United States Navy, is quartered at the Westminster Hotel.

Ex-Governors J. B. Page and Levi Underwood, of Vermont, have apartments at the Windsor Hotel.

General Allan Rutherford, of the Treasury Department, yesterday arrived at the Metropolitan Hotel.

William A. Dart, United States Consul General at Montreal, is among the late arrivals at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

The Springfield Republican says it would be mean and foolish to forbid Mr. Cushing going on his Spanish mission, as has been threatened.

A clergyman in Pennsylvania having married 999 couples, there is great competition among the belles of the town as to who shall make the round thousand, and the beaux have a hard time of it, you may be sure.

Minnesota papers are boasting of their beautiful weather (January 18), and want Eastern people to come out and enjoy it. This is, indeed, a very good time for travelers to go to Minnesota, and stay, for few ever come back after winter sets in earnest.

Why will not the papers allow the name of Schuyler Colfax to rest in dignified oblivion? But they will not; for instance, one has just chronicled the death of Schuyler Colfax's stepfather, and another gives an account of the arrest of Schuyler Colfax's brother-in-law for robbing the mails.

The sophomore of Yale are a lively set of youths, truly. The other night they bedaubed the seats and maps in the freshman recitation room with black, and, after committing other amusing pranks, broke into the chapel and rung the college bell at three o'clock in the morning, at the same time blowing fish-bones and crying "Fire!"

The elevation of Admiral Hood to the British peerage as Lord Lauriston raises the number of the Harard family who at present hold seats in the House of Lords to seven. These are the Duke of Norfolk, the Duke of Devonshire, Wicklow, Carlisle, and Barons Howard of Glossop and Lauriston. In fact, the seven peers hold eight coronets between them, for the Earl of Suffolk is also Earl of Berkshire by virtue of a separate creation.

Premier Gladstone has replied to a memorial addressed to him by the secretaries of the Central Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, West of England, Edinburgh and Belfast Women's Suffrage committees, in which the petitioners requested the framing of an oral discussion on the subject. Mr. Gladstone, in concluding, says:—"He regrets that he is unable to undertake a deputization for the oral discussion of the subject in question."

The chief of the English Cabinet desires to avoid an awful death.

JOURNALIST NOTES.

The *Jim and Ella Journal* is the name of a new paper in Mississippi. Jim and Ella are the editor and wife. "Jim-along-Josie" would have been as pretty a name.

The *Animal Kingdom*, organ of the brute creation in this city, has entered upon its second volume successfully.

Editors in Vermont have a very summary way of settling pugnacious visitors. For example—"George Huntington called at the office of the *Mid-Vermont Register* with an open jack knife to settle a little difficulty with the editor of that sheet. The editor happened to be a fighting man, and proceeded to calm the irate Huntington by pouring over him three or four bottles of ink, rubbing in some liquid with an office stool. Huntington expressed his entire satisfaction."

The *State Gazette*, of Trenton, has a new dress, and presents an improved appearance.

Captain J. A. H. St. Andrews has purchased the interest of his late partners, Messrs. Madison and Sutherland, in the *Farmville Mercury* and the *Southside Virginian*.

The republicans of Bowling Green, Kentucky, have arranged a "pool," and announce that to-day (Friday) they will issue the *Republican* with 900 *bona fide* subscribers.

The *St. Louis Daily Times*, the leading democratic organ of the State, commenced the new year with a new dress, and now presents an appearance never before reached.

JOHN B. GOUGH'S NEW LECTURE.

John B. Gough will give his new lecture, entitled "How and When," before the Yorkville branch of the Young Men's Christian Association this evening at the East Side Hall, corner of Third avenue and Eighty-sixth street. A large audience is expected.

WASHINGTON.

Checking Suspicious Expenditure in the Department of Justice.

HIGH TREASURY OFFICIALS INDICTED.

The Swarm of Drones Employed Without Warrant of Law.

THE DO-NOTHING POLICY OF FINANCE.

Puzzling Over Problems with Plenty of Idle Gold in the Vaults.

The Do-Nothing Policy of Finance—Necessity of Activity—Plenty of Gold in the Treasury.

The question as to what is to be done at once practically to reimburse the depleted \$44,000,000 currency reserve, which is reported to be as low as \$17,000,000, is engaging the serious attention of those who have in view the maintenance of a strong condition of our finances in the Treasury and the corresponding confidence and consequent easy condition in financial circles outside. Considerable anxiety is felt in this regard on account of the approaching obligations of the government and the growing exhaustion of the reserve fund, which is aggravated by the dissident and do-nothing course of Congress. While many pretend to be anxious to provide some means of relieving the increasing distress, yet the opposition among the political economists to the plan of each other is daily made more manifest here by them, and with the exception of Mr. Kelley's plan of replenishing the currency reserve by the issue of a three-sixty-five convertible bond, no feasible plan has yet been suggested. This or some such method, it is thought, will alone meet the difficulties of the case. The only other resource left the Secretary of the Treasury is to sell gold, of which the government has plenty on hand; but the fear then arises that the various freebooters and financial bandits, as Senator Howe called the Wall street people, would bear the government on gold, and it would consequently suffer a loss by depreciation of the value of gold, or, in other words, gold going down under their pressure, would not buy as many greenbacks for a certain sum as it remained as high as it now is. The Secretary of the Treasury is reported to have avowed himself in favor of Mr. Kelley's or some such plan, and was of the opinion that the author of it was the only person really and sincerely devoting his energies unreservedly to the early and successful remedial agency so much needed. Heretofore, it is remarked by several Senators, the Secretary has some plan or set of ideas around which, as a nucleus, Congress could rally, and from the nettle danger pluck the flower safely. But now it is loudly complained that he has no suggestions to offer and manifests very much of the same masterly inactivity as is displayed by the Senate Committee on Finance, who are waiting to know what the body of the Senate will approve. Meantime long speeches are made, each one occupying nearly a whole daily session, and the days pass by, the country still suffering, when if straight, downright honest work was meant, the problem could be practically solved at once by the selection of the best plan in caucus and its immediate adoption. Letters are flowing in here from every quarter, in which bankers and manufacturers complain bitterly of the continued unsettled state in which business is kept, influenced by the dilatory action of Congress, and the finances, which is sensitively felt by those interests, reacting as they do on the general policy of the government and by common consent, as it were, being governed in their fluctuations accordingly. The united banking and manufacturing as well as government requirements will be made manifest through the respective agencies during this week, and it is believed we shall reach some practical conclusion to meet the case.

The Treasury Hordes—No Warrant of Law for the Employment of the Immense Force in the Pay of the Finance Secretary—A Rich Field for Retrenchment.

In connection with the developments made by the House Committee on Appropriations respecting the personnel of the Treasury Department it has been found that the organization is entirely without warrant of law. In 1865, when the business of the department was at its maximum, the office of the Secretary proper had thirty-three clerks. In addition to these there were two controllers, six auditors, a treasurer, register and solicitor of the Treasury, commissioner of customs and the Lighthouse Board. Now the committee find an establishment of immense proportions. They will make an investigation, not only for retrenchment, but in order to discover by what authority this vast establishment has been built up. The bureau of the Secretary for which there is no law are:—Appointment, 12 clerks; Warrant, 17 clerks; Independent Treasury, 17 clerks; Customs, 15 clerks; Revenue, 10 clerks; Navigation, 7 clerks; Internal Revenue, 10 clerks; Slavery, 4 clerks; Captured and Abandoned Property, 4 clerks; Special Agent, 5 clerks; Supervising Architect, 12 clerks; Marine Hospital, 6 clerks; Supervising Inspector General of Steamboats and Statistics, 37 clerks; Mint, 3 clerks; Mail, 13 clerks; Records and Files, 10 clerks; Loans, 21 clerks; Miscellaneous duty, 15 clerks; Currency, 17 clerks; Engraving and Printing, 6 clerks; Light-house Board, 10 clerks, and Superintendent of the Treasury Building, 200 employees. In addition to these are the controllers, auditors, treasurers and other branches of the department regularly provided for by law. In addition to the force of clerks in these illegal bureaus are scores of copyists, counters, messengers, assistant messengers, laborers, watchmen and charwomen. In the Bureau of Record and Files alone are twenty-six copyists. In this connection it should be stated that in addition to these bureaus is the regularly organized service, which again employs a large force. Of these may be mentioned the United States mints, assay offices and depositories, internal revenue, customs, life-saving stations, lighthouse, marine hospital, revenue marine, special agents, special commissioners and steamboat inspection services, and the United States Coast Survey. A prominent member of the Appropriation Committee remarked that it seemed as if the department, not knowing what to do with the immense force, manufactured places for them, and, having exhausted their ingenuity, established a bureau known as miscellaneous. What duties a miscellaneous bureau has to perform the committee is at a loss to know. They propose, however, to have a statement, by way of explanation, of the elaborate establishment thus grown up without regard to law or reason. The committee little expects to find extravagance on so large a scale when they undertake their examinations, and are daily more impressed with the importance of their work. They are not surprised that there is a deficit when they are brought face to face with such extraordinary and unnecessary outlays.

The Expenditures of the Attorney-General's Office To Be Better Guarded—Commissioning a Disbarred Officer.

It appears that committees have been appointed at the commencement of every session to audit the expenditures of the different departments, with the exception of those of the Department of Justice, which by some oversight have heretofore escaped investigation. To remedy this, Mr. Seney, of Virginia, has introduced a resolution asking for the appointment of a committee to examine the financial matters of that department. The recent nomination of Attorney General Williams for the position of Chief Justice has attracted public attention to the loose manner in which the financial

affairs of his office have been conducted. In the other departments there is a special disbursing officer, but in the Department of Justice the Chief Clerk, in addition to his other and legitimate duties, has managed to have assigned to him the entire control of the expenditures of the office. With a weak Attorney General thus, of course, makes the Chief Clerk the controlling influence of the department. He can grant favors to his chief which places that individual completely under his control. To prevent any more purchases of land, horses and harness, for private use, laid for out of the contingent expenses of the office, and the payment of coachman and footman as messengers, it is understood that an amendment will be made to the Appropriation bill assigning the duties of disbursing agent of the Department of Justice to a regularly commissioned officer. The expenditures are so great that it is absolutely demanded they should be placed in responsible hands.

The Pay of Retired Naval Officers To Be Reduced and the Force of Idlers Diminished.

In the other carrying out of the economical policy of Congress a bill is to be introduced in the Senate repealing the act which increased the pay of retired officers of the Navy from half to three-quarters, and it will provide for a reduction rate to what it was before. This is urged on account of the large number of retired officers doing nothing while drawing the increased pay, and another source of objection arises from the vast number of superfluous officers on duty in the various navy yards, where they have little or nothing to do, and will shortly, after reduction of the working force, outnumber, it is said, the men employed. The bill also contemplates no allowance of extension time in the limit at which the officers are to be retired, and this is to meet the present attempt on the part of a corps of naval officers who are here to have the law as to retiring officers amended so as to make ten years beyond the age of sixty-two, as now, fixed by law for the period of retirement. In fact, so numerous have they become that Bufton, the able bodied and humorous Representative from Massachusetts, says that he cannot move around in the transaction or important private business without stumbling over two or three gilded sons of Neptune. A resolution of inquiry will also be introduced in the Senate asking information from the Secretary of the Navy as to how many officers of the Navy are now in Washington without proper leave of absence. Mr. Lamson, of the House Naval Committee, has prepared a report and will introduce a resolution accordingly, that all naval officers pertaining to the merits of their service shall be finally decided by their own Board of Naval Officers now appointed for that purpose, and shall not be referred to Congress except in such instances where the officers affected have not been actually before the Board, and have not been examined in person. Illustrative of the objection to the increased pay which the retired officers are now getting, the case of certain persons in Brooklyn, who are drawing \$3,000 per annum for doing nothing, is instanced; and these parties are, besides, building rows of twenty houses at a time. Those who are urging the bill contend that every one else, members of Congress and department officials, having been cut down, it is no more than right that these officers who are doing nothing should also be razed.

Appropriations for Fortifications.

An official report has been prepared, showing in detail the amount of appropriations which has been or will be expended in each of the permanent forts and batteries for which regular appropriations have been made from the period of commencement of each work to the present time. The aggregate total for February 21, 1873, is \$54,686,937. The following are among the larger amounts:—Fort Warren, Boston Harbor, \$1,683,000; Fort Adams, Newport Harbor, \$1,361,343; Fort Schuyler, East River, New York, \$1,350,000; Fort at White's Point, \$1,276,000; Fort Hamilton and batteries, \$1,115,752; Fort Tompkins and batteries, \$1,073,389; Fort at Sandy Hook, \$1,125,000; Fort Delaware, \$1,100,000; Fort McHenry, Baltimore, \$1,753,000; Fort Monroe, \$1,819,972; Fort Wood, Hampton Roads, \$2,634,900; Fort Schuyler, \$2,634,900; Fort Pulaski, \$1,000,359; Fort Taylor, Key West, \$2,072,500; Fort Jefferson, Florida, \$4,401,238; Fort Morgan, \$1,242,566; Fort Jackson, Mississippi River, La., \$1,131,008; Fort at Fort Point, entrance to San Francisco, \$1,795,833; Fort at Alcatraz, San Francisco Harbor, \$1,819,167; Fort at Line Point, San Francisco Harbor, \$450,000; Fortifications for fortifications, \$2,084,593; Amount of money received on temporary loan.

An official communication from the Secretary of the Treasury gives a statement of the total amount of money received on temporary loan under the acts of February 25, March 17 and July 11, 1862, and the act of June 30, 1864. From March 31, 1862, to June 30 of the same year the issues were \$1,000,000 and the redemptions within \$75,310 of this amount. The date at which the largest amount was outstanding was the 31st of March, 1866, at which time it had reached the sum of \$115,816,008. The rates of interest were four, five and six per cent. Of the notes specially provided for the redemption of this loan \$47,074,374 were used.

Rumor of Secretary Richardson's Resignation.

It was rumored on Saturday afternoon that Secretary Richardson had gone from his office to the White House to tender his resignation. This he had intended doing, it was said, at the last cabinet meeting, but circumstances had prevented. As might have been expected, this created a "sensation," and there was much running to and fro to ascertain the correctness of the report, without success.

Inconsistency of the Republican Senate in Regard to Confirmations.

The confirmation of Mr. Hughes as United States Judge for the Eastern district of Virginia excites very considerable comment in connection with the fierce opposition to Mr. Cushing for Chief Justice on account of his political record. It is true that Mr. Hughes was the late nominee of the republican party for the Governorship of Virginia, but in spite of this recent endorsement his political record will not bear scrutiny. It is well known that he was an original secessionist and did all in his power to take Virginia out of the Union. It was only after the war was over that he thought it the better policy to join the republican party. While yet fresh in his new allegiance he ran for Congress, but was easily beaten. In his contest against General Kemper for governor he ran a good way behind the strength of his party, because many Virginians who were Unionists during the war thought it an outrage to be asked to vote for an original secessionist. Yet he was confirmed, and Mr. Cushing, because of the writing of a friendly letter of introduction to Jefferson Davis, was bitterly opposed, and would have been, if not withdrawn, in all probability rejected. Thus an imprudent act was made to weigh more heavily than actual overt acts. It is thought here that to have been consistent the Senate should have either rejected or confirmed both nominations. It is looked upon as a strange proceeding, this putting the seal of condemnation on the lighter offense and permitting the graver offense to go unrebuked. In his canvass for Governor Mr. Hughes took open ground against the Civil Rights bill, and lost thereby a large portion of the colored vote of his State.

Indictment of Two High Treasury Officials in Brooklyn—Excitement and Rumor in Washington.

Great excitement has been occasioned here, spreading its influences to New York, Boston and Brooklyn, by the indictment of two Treasury officials, named Sanger and Hawley, the latter the Supervisor of Internal Revenue. It appears that under the law of 1872 the Secretary of the Treasury was authorized to employ three persons for the collection of internal revenue taxes due and not paid on personal income. There are a great many wealthy persons who have failed to make any returns and some made were fraudulent. These persons have for their object to ascertain by investigation, in the employment of secret service men and detectives, who these persons are, to bring them to a compliance with the law

and payment of penalties. These services are paid for by the government in moieties on the successful working up of a case, and frequently they amount to large sums. The officials on the other hand invest their time and money, in both of which large expenditures have to be made. Sanger and Hawley went to work in Brooklyn, operating with Bias, the District Attorney, Davenport, Commissioner and marplot at Albany, who were recently brought up by an indictment being returned against them before the Grand Jury of Brooklyn. As Sanger represents the Treasury Department directly, and Hawley is Supervisor of Internal Revenue, and there being a law authorizing their proceedings, the indictment was found without proper basis and facts to warrant the finding of it, and it is said by friends of Sanger, who have been here in dozens from Boston, whence he hails, to straighten the thing out, that the indictment will be at once quashed, and the whole thing be amicably settled among the government officials who have gotten into a vicious snarl over it. The next move will be, it is given out, to sue the editor of a Brooklyn democratic paper for libel in publishing severe comments on the indicted officials. The next butler, who secured Sanger's appointment, and whose patron he is, has been retained as counsel by the latter in the suit for libel and slander.

The Great Naval Drill and Pageant Of Key West—Preparations Nearly Completed for the Great Marine Spectacle.

The Navy Department has nearly completed its preparations for the grand naval drill in the Florida Channel, off Key West. Commodore Foxhall A. Parker, author of the "Naval Tactics," has been appointed Chief of Staff to Rear Admiral Case, the senior officer in command of the fleet originally concentrated at Key West to commence warlike operations against the Spaniards in the West Indies. Commodore Parker will under the command of his superior officer, superintending the details of the drill, which will embrace all the naval evolutions under steam and sail. Commodore Parker is a native of New York and entered the navy from Virginia in 1833. During 1861 and 1862 he was Executive Officer of the Navy Yard here. After the battle of Bull Run he was transferred to Fort Elsworth with 250 seamen and marines, thus checking the advance of the Confederates, aiding in rallying our scattered battalions and saving Alexandria. In August, 1863, he commanded the naval battery on Morris Island, Charleston Harbor, and after various services in 1864 was assigned to the command of the Potomac flotilla. During this time Commodore Parker was engaged in perfecting his system of tactics, which is said by competent judges to be the most complete and extensive, as applied to modern naval warfare. The Navy Department has sent to the fleet a complete outfit of day and night signalling apparatus, to which it is proposed to give a thorough test. The code of flag signals has been radically revised and improved, and a new style of signal lights has been adopted. The grandeur of the naval pageant is assured by the high character and services of the officers in command of the fleet and vessels, all of whom have had experience in active war. Rear Admiral Case, who will have chief command, figured at the capture of Vera Cruz, Alvarado and Tobacco, and in the hotly contested naval attacks on Hatteras and Roanoke, and served as fleet captain in all the general active operations on the Atlantic coast. Rear Admiral Scott, second in command, also took a prominent part in the blockading squadrons on the Atlantic during the rebellion. The vessels, including the largest frigates of the American Navy, are commanded by such officers as Franklin, Whiting, Ransom, Simpson, Rhind, Caldwell, Truxton, Beaumont, Carter, Badger, Lowry, Wells, Braine, Pillsbury, Cushing, Reid, Waters, Gates, Jewett, Kane and Benham. The drill will not take place till after the arrival of the Osage, which will undergo some slight repairs at Norfolk, consuming two days, and will then sail for Key West. It is stated that the Osage will probably carry out some prominent naval officers who desire to witness the drill. The interest at the Navy Department in the drill exceeds anything known in naval history, and this is the first time our vessels will have ever had the opportunity to practice by divisions, a school of discipline which the younger officers will greatly appreciate.

First Evening Reception at the White House.

The first evening reception at the White House will be on Tuesday, when the State apartments will be thrown open and the Marine Band, under its new leader, will play from eight to ten o'clock, President Grant keeping time with handclapping.

Presidential Election by Direct Vote.

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections yesterday met and considered Senator Morton's proposed constitutional amendment to provide a better mode of electing the President. Without reaching formal conclusions the following propositions were considered:—First—To abolish the Electoral College. Second—The President and Vice President to be voted for directly by the people. Third—Each State to be divided into as many districts as it has Representatives, and the candidate having the highest vote for President in the district to receive the vote of that district, which shall count one Presidential vote; each State to be also entitled to two Presidential votes at large, which shall be counted for the candidate having the highest number of votes in the whole State. Fourth—The person having the highest number of such Presidential votes in the United States shall be President. This will allow a President to be elected by a plurality vote. Fifth—These provisions to be applicable to the election of Vice President. Sixth—Congress shall have power to provide for holding Congress conducting Presidential elections and establish tribunals for decision of contested elections in districts or States and make regulations to govern these tribunals.

The Civil Service Commission and Christian Statesmanship.

The Civil Service Commission have been in session a few days considering the subjects to be presented in their annual report, which will soon be made, to the President. There were present Messrs. Eaton, Shellabarger, Walker, Elliott, Blackfan and Cox. Mr. Cattell, the other member, is absent in Europe. They adopted yesterday the following preamble and resolution:—Whereas, by the rules for the regulation of the civil service established by the President, the commission of supervising the application of said rules on the part of persons specially appointed for the purpose of carrying out the same into effect, and a due performance of said duty may require careful examination into the facts, the end both of which no justice may originate from false reports, and that no possible abuse may escape correction; and whereas the commission proposes very soon to release a report on the subject of the past year in which the results of such supervision should appear; therefore Resolved, That there be a committee of three members of the commission, of which Mr. D. B. Eaton shall be chairman, the other members to be appointed by the chairman, to sit during the coming recess of the commission, at its rooms, No. 1221 G Street, Northwest, for the purpose of investigating and making a report upon any matter aforesaid which may be brought to the attention of the commission, and to make recommendations of said rules in Washington, on the part of any said person, and for the further purpose of giving such attention to the commission may deem appropriate to any suggestion that may be made by any responsible person for the improvement of the civil service.

A National Board of Health to Combat Contagious Diseases.

The House Committee on Commerce had under consideration a bill to prevent the importation of contagious or infectious diseases into the United States, and have made it the special order for Tuesday, at which time they will hear an argument in its support by Mr. Bromberg. The bill provides that the surgeons general of the army and of the navy and the supervising surgeons of the Marine Hospital and of the Treasury Department be constituted, ex officio, a National Board of Health, with power to establish and enforce such rules and regulations as they may deem necessary to prevent the importation into the United States of any infectious or contagious diseases, by providing proper quarantine regulations, which shall before going into effect be approved by

the President and be laid before Congress at its annual meeting. The committee referred all bills to the sub-committees of five each as follows:—Relating to river and Harbor improvements, to Mr. Wheeler, chairman; to the security of life in ocean steamers and steamboats, Mr. Negley, chairman. Mr. Bass, of New York, also appeared before the committee advocating the granting of American registers to certain Canadian steamboats.

Growth of the Registered Letter Service.
During the quarter ending December 31, 1873, there were sent from the New York Post Office 20,855 registered domestic letters and 10,983 foreign letters. The fees on the former amounted to \$3,028.75, and on the latter to \$813.23. This shows an increase over the previous quarter of 2,890 domestic and 289 foreign registered letters.

Pinchback's Adverse Fate.
Mr. Morton had his Committee on Privileges and Elections in session at the Capitol on Saturday, and tried to prevail on them to report that Pinckney Benton Stewart Pinchback—such is his name—should have the vacant curule chair of Louisiana in the Senate chamber. But "Pinch" could not be put through, to Morton's ineffable disgust.

The President, the Cabinet and one half or more of the dignitaries whose names figure in the Congressional Directory were at a ball given by Governor Shepherd on Friday night. Many exquisite toilets were worn, but the most striking one was a dress which Mrs. Beiknap had made for her in Paris last summer, of light mouse-colored satin, with trimming of rolls of the same, bound with black velvet, and reaching from the waist to the hem of the long skirt. The Secretary appeared proud of his bride, who was the observed of all observers. Mrs. Attorney General Williams was present, tastefully dressed, but with a saddened expression of countenance.

A German Artist's Portrait.
Senator Sumner is sitting, or rather standing, to Mr. Ulke, a German artist here, for a full-length portrait, which has been ordered by the Haytian Legislature for its hall.

Steamboat Inspection.
The Board of Supervising Inspectors of Steamboats holds its annual session in Washington this week, beginning on Wednesday next.

Difficult Labors of the Senate Transportation Committee.

The Senate Committee on Transportation expect to report about the 10th of February. They have taken a very large amount of testimony, and have procured, besides, a great deal of statistical data relative to the subject before them. They have, however, found but little correlative data covering the entire scope of their inquiries, and have therefore been obliged to enter upon tedious and elaborate statistical computation requiring much time, and hence they have been prevented from reporting at as early a day as they wished.

A Committee Getting Talked to Death.

The Committee on Banking and Currency will this week give a hearing, on the financial question, to R. W. Hughes, of Virginia, George F. Wilson, of Providence, R. I., and Daniel H. Landon, Mr. Nourse, of Boston, will present his views to-morrow before that committee.

Wheat and Flour Export to England.

The Chief of the Bureau of Statistics furnishes a statement showing the quantity of wheat and wheat flour imported into Great Britain from Russia, and the United States respectively, from June 1, 1860, to September 30, 1873. The recapitulation is as follows:—

	Ctrls.	Bushels.
Wheat from Russia.....	127,308,357	237,642,254
Flour from Russia.....	550,462	701,293
Total bushels.....		238,343,547
Wheat from United States.....	123,799,544	239,092,482
Flour from United States.....	15,565,167	43,664,700
Total bushels.....		274,657,182

—The bushels of wheat are computed at sixty pounds the bushel. The bushels of flour are computed on the basis of 160 pounds of wheat to one hundredweight of flour.

POLITICAL NOTES.

The Maine Democratic State Convention for the nomination of a State ticket to be voted for in September will be held June 25. A little ahead of time, but probably not so much as the nominations will be at the tail after they are made.

The prohibitionists are determined to push their views into national and local politics. Why not? There is no law to hinder them.

It is a somewhat singular fact that every member of Congress from Minnesota was either born or spent the early part of his life in Maine. But is that any reason why the State should be called Mainesota?

"Shall the women of Ohio settle the question of woman suffrage for themselves?" is a mooted interrogatory. If they do, let them beware the fate of Abby Smith and her cows in Glastenbury, Conn.

A Washington correspondent of the *Lynchburg Virginian* asserts that the speech delivered in the House by Mr. Elliott, the colored member from South Carolina, and in which Alexander H. Stephens and other prominent Southerners were severely handled, was written out by Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts, and given to Elliott to deliver.

The question is not exact, "Has some one tampered with the \$7,000 Pomeroy-York package," but "Has somebody 'stamped' with it?"

"Every man who saves money must be made to divide with every man who saves none," is what the Chicago Tribune alleges to be the platform of the Communists.

"Are we not to elect a United States Senator next year?" asks the *Nashville Banner*, and then it wants to know "why there is so much lethargy on the subject?" Ask Andy and you will get the answer. Martin Van Buren used to say that it was better to walk thirty miles to see a man than to write him a letter, and Caleb Cushing, according to the Chicago Tribune, agrees with him.

Democratic State Convention in Connecticut, New Haven, February 25.

Anti-Monopoly State Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, February 25.

COMANCHE INDIANS RAIDING.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 18, 1874.
Captain Wyckoff, of the United States Army, who has arrived here from Fort Concho, Texas, reports that on Monday last, while at Fort Griffin, he learned that Comanche Indians had just raided upon a settlement in that vicinity and had driven off fifty horses. Troops had gone in pursuit. Captain Wyckoff also reports that there are rumors about the Fort Hill reservation, and it was believed that they were on a raid.

DEATH OF A PROMINENT MERCHANT.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Jan. 18, 1874.
Mr. Arthur S. Simpson, of the firm of A. S. Simpson & Brothers, ship builders and proprietors of the dry docks at the foot of Christian street, died to-day, aged forty-seven, of Bright's disease of the kidneys. He was the head of the firm for twenty years, succeeded by his father. He was also a prominent Mason and a member of the Union League.

DEATH OF A CLERGYMAN.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Jan. 18, 1874.
The Rev. Samuel Fisher, of College Hill, fell dead this morning. He succeeded Dr. Beecher as pastor of the Second Presbyterian church, and was also for several years President of the Hamilton College, New York.

A KNIFE MURDER IN BALTIMORE.